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Copy of Secret and Personal telegram No. 23 of June 4 from

06 [] to [] 10

By immediate unnumbered telegram of June 4 (which please number as Personal No. 22 to [] and No. 20 to Washington). 08 10 6

All eight persons appeared before an expatriate magistrate today and pleaded guilty to offences against Immigration Act and against Firearms Act. Solicitor General outlined facts known to police. Accused were represented by Solicitor James Liddell who urged on court that accused were on Anguilla Cay because their vessel was in distress. Magistrate seems to have accepted this story. He fined each accused five pounds on charge under Firearms Act and cautioned and discharged them on charge under Immigration Act. He ordered that arms and ammunition and explosives recovered by Royal Navy be condemned.

2. Your telegram No. Personal 49 passing No. Personal 2 from Washington. Cubans have informed Commissioner of Police that they are trying to make their vessel seaworthy but that if it is not ready for sea by morning of June 5 they will charter vessel locally. Their intention is to return to Miami and leader of party has said he will go thence to Costa Rica. A journey to Puerto Rico in any small vessel from here would be hazardous particularly in passage round eastern end of Cuban coast. We have no direct connexion with Puerto Rico and if Cubans travelled by air they would have to go to Miami. I cannot dictate to them where they are to go. Sole legal concern of local authorities is to see that they leave Bahamas promptly. Failing that they would be deported. Despite American request in your telegram suggest that it would be most unwise for us to seek to arrange any special assistance to get these men to Puerto Rico particularly after surprising leniency of magistrate which of itself will certainly arouse adverse comment from Government of Cuba.

3. Your paragraph 4 enquiring whether Manuel Ray was arrested in party. Leader of party told Head of Special Branch privately that he was Ray but this was not admitted by others. He was charged in name of Martinez and although police think that he may well be Ray, I think proper course is to treat him as being Martinez.

Am

10/RJ